



**JAN H. GARDNER**

**Frederick County  
Executive**

**SB 805**

**Prohibited Contributions to Planning  
Commission Members**

**County Position: SUPPORT**

Date: February 23, 2017

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner and the County Council urge your support for **Senate Bill 805** – “Prohibited Contributions to Planning Commission Members”.

This bill strengthens provisions in state law that require planning commission members who are candidates for County Executive or County Council to comply with a prohibition on campaign contributions from the applicant or “party of record” that has an application before the planning commission for a rezoning or other defined land-use decision during the pendency of the application. Planning commission members would also be required to disclose any ex parte conversations regarding the application outside the public hearing process within 7 days. These same rules currently apply to county elected officials – both the County Executive and the County Council.

Four counties in Maryland have ethics provisions in state law. All deal with ensuring that land-use decisions are made in the best interest of the public without the undue influence of special interest money or deal making.

This bill went through a long public hearing process in Frederick County and is supported by the county’s Ethics Task Force, the League of Women Voters and many interested citizens. This bill takes an important step to strengthen ethics laws in Frederick County.

The Frederick County Executive and County Council urge your favorable **SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 805.